

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The examiner of record has reviewed the Information Disclosure Statement dated 08/12/2011, the extensive amendments to claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 23, and 24 and the arguments¹ presented by the applicant. The examiner of record finds applicant's arguments persuasive, and therefore, concludes that claims 1-5, 7-16, 18-19, and 22-25 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MANUEL MENDEZ whose telephone number is (571)272-4962. The examiner can normally be reached on 0730-1800 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Nicholas D. Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

¹ Applicant's Arguments can be located in the amendment dated 06/02/2011, beginning on page 6 and ending on page 11.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Manuel A. Mendez/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3763

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